Dr. C.K. Clarke was born in 1857 in Elora, Ontario and died in 1924 in Toronto. He became Superintendent at the Toronto Asylum in 1905 and resigned in 1911 when he became Superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital. In 1908 he became a full professor of psychiatry and Dean of Medicine at the University of Toronto. His career was marked by a long struggle to establish a psychiatric hospital, establishment of the first psychiatric clinic in Canada in 1909 (more precisely an out-patient service), and the formation of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, with himself as Medical Director in 1918.

The changes which his career describes, the collaboration of psychiatry with psychology, the dissemination of psychiatry into the community, through schools, clinics and general hospitals, and finally its nationalization in the form of the Mental Hygiene movement, represent for Clarke what he calls "emancipation from asylum life" (1140).[lxxxiv] Clarke stresses the greater experience this "emancipation" offers, but it is apparent that this emancipation for the doctor has other implications for his patients, as with this greater experience comes greater control and power over the patient's entire life, literally from birth to death. It amounts to the transformation of the "aloofness of psychiatrists shut up within the walls of custodial institutions" (1140), into a more outward-looking militancy as Clarke urges psychiatrists to become "aggressive leaders ready to show their mettle in a great cause" (1140). The following pieces dramatize how Clarke and his colleagues and successors attempt at once to enlarge and disguise his authority, emancipating it from the old asylum of brick and mortar and lunacy, and erecting in its place the "virtual asylum" of mental hygiene.[lxxxv] Clarke's writings on the subject are intriguing, not just because of their depiction of his pivotal role in the process (the last of the "great" Asylum doctors, the first of the psychiatrists), but because of the divided allegiance, nominally to the Asylum and other institutions like it, but in reality to something that, intentionally or not, would eclipse it.

Clarke's single most important innovation at the Toronto Asylum was what he termed the "individual approach," which he promoted in some of the works mentioned below -- and practised, either personally or through his lieutenants and succeors, in the following "cases" at the Toronto Asylum. In practical terms this meant that, beginning in 1907, more information than ever before would be gathered -- and would accumulate -- in an individual patient's file. Theoretically this should at least have positively affected the patient's